

IN THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended, Previously Amended) A thermal transfer interface, comprising:

a thermal spreader forming a plurality of passageways;

a spring element coupled with the spreader; and

a plurality of thermally conductive pins for the passageways, each of the thermally conductive pins having a head and a shaft moving with the spring element, at least part of the shaft being internal to the passageway and forming a gap with an internal surface of the passageway, wherein the pin heads collectively and macroscopically conform to an object coupled thereto to transfer heat from the object to the spreader through the passageway gap formed between the spreader and each of the plurality of pins, each of the pin shafts being substantially rectangular, each of the passageways being substantially perpendicular to a planar surface of the spring element and being substantially rectangular to accommodate motion of the pin shafts therethrough.

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7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended, Previously Amended) A thermal transfer interface, comprising:

a thermal spreader forming a plurality of passageways;

a spring element coupled with the spreader and comprising a thermally conductive sponge-like material; and

a plurality of thermally conductive pins for the passageways, each of the thermally conductive pins having a head and a shaft moving with the spring element, at least part of the shaft being internal to the passageway and forming a gap with an internal surface of the

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passageway, wherein the pin heads collectively and macroscopically conform to an object coupled thereto to transfer heat from the object to the spreader through the passageway gap formed between the spreader and each of the plurality of pins.



11-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended, Previously Amended) A method of for transferring thermal energy from a body to a heat sink, comprising the steps of: biasing a plurality of pins against a surface of the object so that the plurality of pins contact with, and substantially conform to, a macroscopic surface of the object, the step of biasing comprising biasing a plurality of pin heads against the object and utilizing a thermally conductive sponge material coupled between the spreader and the pin heads; and communicating thermal energy from the object through the pins to a thermal spreader forming a plurality of air gaps between passageways of the thermal spreader and with the plurality of pins.

20. (Cancelled).